

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 12, and 14 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced as a result of these amendments. Paragraphs 35 and 36 have been amended to be consistent with Figure 12. Thus, Applicants request withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure. Claims 4 and 12 have been amended to replace "columns" with "support pillars," which are illustrated in Figure 11 and supported in the specification. Accordingly, Applicants request removal of the objection to the drawings.

Rejections Under 35 USC 102

In light of the amendments to claims 1 and 7, the Applicants respectfully request the removal of the rejections under 35 USC 102. In particular, independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to incorporate the feature of a contiguous emission layer incorporating a plurality of protruding emitter tips, the emission layer formed from a mold, wherein the emission layer and the plurality of emitter tips are composed of a material having electron emitting properties. US Patent No. 6,075,315 to Seko et al. teaches the emitter electrode being formed through an evaporation process under vacuum. Thus, the emitter electrode is not of a contiguous emission layer. That is, the emitter electrodes are deposited over the silicon substrate and the emission layer and the emitter tips are not composed of a common material through a mold process as specified in claims 1 and 7 as amended. Furthermore, claims 1 and 7 have been amended to include the feature of the first layer contacting the emission layer. This feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by Seko et al. Claims 2 and 6, and 9-10 and 13 depend from claims 1 and 7, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 2 and 6, and 9-10 and 13 are not anticipated by Seko et al.

Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 5 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable in view of Seko et al., and further in view of US Patent No. 5,804,910 to Tjaden et al. Claims 5 and 14 depend from claims 1 and 7, respectively. As mentioned above, claims 1 and 7, as amended, are not anticipated by Seko et al. Tjaden does nothing to cure these deficiencies as Tjaden teaches an emitter disposed over a film, wherein the emitter and the film are deposited through separate processes, i.e., not a mold process. Accordingly, claims 5 and 14 are patentable over the combination of Seko and Tjaden for at least these reasons.

Claims 3-4, and 11-12 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable in view of Seko et al., and further in view of US Patent No. 5,589,728 to Levine et al. Claims 3-4, and 11-12 depend from claims 1 and 7, respectively. As mentioned above, claims 1 and 7, as amended, are not anticipated by Seko et al. Levine does nothing to cure these deficiencies as Levine also teaches an emitter disposed over a film, wherein the emitter and the film are deposited through separate processes, i.e., not a mold process. Accordingly, claims 5 and 14 are patentable over the combination of Seko and Levine for at least these reasons.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable in view of Seko et al., and further in view of US Patent No. 4,964,946 to Gray et al. Claim 8 depends from claim 7. As mentioned above, claim 7, as amended, is not anticipated by Seko et al. Gray does nothing to cure the deficiencies of Seko et al. Accordingly, claim 8 is patentable over the combination of Seko and Gray for at least these reasons.

Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance based on the foregoing remarks. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 774 6921. If any other fees are due in connection

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with filing this amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. ALTEP057). A copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Gencarella".

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